

# **\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

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## Washington Department of Wildlife



Serving Washington's  
wildlife and people—  
now and in the  
future.

### REGION 1

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## NORTHEAST WASHINGTON

# ELK HUNTING

Elk hunting in northeast Washington is known for big bulls and light pressure, but the two reasons for this seemingly appealing combination are important for the prospective hunter to consider.

First, the bulls are large because they are so difficult to hunt in this densely timbered, rugged terrain that they escape hunters and live a long time. Second, hunting pressure is light because there are actually very few elk in any one area to hunt—usually less than 50 bulls are harvested each year in all of the northeastern GMUS.

Because of these factors, most of the elk are taken by local hunters who are very familiar with the area and the animals' habits. But the challenge and the "elbow room" bring some other hunters back each year, too. Check the current hunting rules pamphlet for season dates.

Most of the lands the elk are found on are managed by the Colville National Forest which offers lots of camping areas; maps are available through ranger stations at Sullivan Lake and Newport, or at the forest supervisor's office at 695 South Main St., Colville, WA 99114.

Northern Pend Oreille County has the highest number of elk, but habitat limits their numbers to 10 to 30 in any one drainage or local area. The good news is that half of these bulls are branched antlered, with six and seven points common.

Specifically, the Sullivan Lake area is popular. So are the areas west of the Pend Oreille River near Ione and Boundary Dam. In mid-Pend Oreille County, the area just west of Usk and the LeClerc Creek drainage can be productive. Some elk are taken in the north fork of the Chewelah Creek drainage, and a few come out of

the north Mount Spokane area.

Road access is usually good, but snow can make it difficult for all but four-wheel-drive vehicles. Brush and thick timber generally make horse-travel a poor choice, unless you hunt from a trail.

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